(e) and (f) The Treaty would strengthen the efforts of both countries to work together to combat the serious problem of international narcotics trafficking, terrorism and other fugitives from serious crimes. It will provide a broader legal basis and enhanced procedural mechanisms to enable each country to arrest and extradite offenders.

(g) India has signed extradition treaties with Canada, UK, Nepal, Butan, Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland and Hong Kong.

Apart from these countries, India also has extradition arrangements with Tanzania, Australia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Thailand, Germany and Sweden.

INSAT-2

211. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fourth Satellite in INSAT-2 series had been successfully launched from KOROU in French Guyana with the help of a powerful Ariane-rocket;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of major Indian space missions proposed to be undertaken during the Ninth Plan;

(d) whether it would augment the communication and TV networks in India; and

(e) if so, the extent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The INSAT-2D satellite was launched from Kourou, French Guyana on June 4, 1997.

(b) The INSAT-2D satellite is working satisfactorily and is colocated at 74 deg. East with INSAT-2A. All the transponders on INSAT-2D have been tested and their performance is satisfactory.

(c) and (d) A total of fifteen satellite/launch vehicle missions are proposed to be undertaken during the Ninth Plan period. These include five third generation Indian National Satellite (INSAT) series of satellites. These satellites will augment the communications and TV services in India.

(e) At present, INSAT System has over 80 transponder providing telecommunications and TV services. This number is expected to reach about 130 at the end of the 9th Plan period.

National Employment Cell

212. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 31st meeting of the Working Group of National Employment Cells was held on December 20, 1996;

(b) whether the Government expressed its great concern over the widening gap between the job seekers and the availability of job opportunities;

(c) if so, the concrete steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) whether any special steps have been worked out in this regard during the Ninth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) The meeting of the Working Group on National Employment Service was held on December, 20-21, 1996.

(b) to (d) Recognising the high incidence of underemployment and increasing casualisation of labour, the need for enhanced employment opportunities for the poor have been taken note of in the approach to the Ninth Plan. Besides this, the approach to the Ninth Plan envisages priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. Productive employment is an important dimension of the State policy that seeks to achieve growth with equity. Greater productive employment will be generated in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment. Improvements in the quality of employment can be achieved only in a situation of rapidly growing productivity to which the labour can lay a just claim. Better Education and skill development could empower people to take advantage of employment opportunities. Special programmes will be implemented to develop skills, enhance technological levels and provide marketing channels for people engaged in traditional occupations.

Indo-Nepal Peace Treaty

213. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nepal has expressed its desire to review 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship with India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the salient features of the amendments in the Treaty sought by Nepal; and

(d) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) to (d) During the Prime Minister's visit to Nepal it was agreed that at the next meeting of the Foreign Secretaries, to be held in two months, all issues of bilateral interest, including issues related to the 1950 Treaty, would be discussed. The views of the Nepalese side about the specific aspects, if any, that they may wish to discuss could be articulated during the meeting.

Removal of Hoardings

214. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state: